

This brochure is designed to inform you whether a pool is in compliance with the Indianapolis/Marion County Revised Code.

DID YOU KNOW?

1. **Revised Code.** You can view the entire Indianapolis/Marion County Revised Code online at www.indy.gov.
2. **Permits.** Permits must be obtained when installing any pool whether it is in-ground or above-ground (greater than 18 inches in depth and 15 feet in width). It is also the responsibility of the property owner to make sure permits are obtained when having a professional company install the pool.
3. **Fences.** Fences are required for any in-ground pool that is not equipped with a State of Indiana approved safety cover.
4. **Hot Tubs.** Hot tub installation must meet the same requirements as swimming pools.
5. **Violations.** Violations can result in citations, a court appearance, and fines up to \$2,500.

Department of Code Enforcement

Driving public safety and improving quality of life through the efficient and effective administration of:

- LICENSES
- PERMITS
- INSPECTIONS

For a complete list of services and resources, visit www.indy.gov/dce or contact us via:

LOBBY HOURS:

Monday	8:00 a.m. - 5:00 p.m.
Tuesday	8:00 a.m. - 5:00 p.m.
Wednesday	Noon - 5:00 p.m.
Thursday	8:00 a.m. - 5:00 p.m.
Friday	9:00 a.m. - 5:00 p.m.

There are many ways to report a violation or neighborhood concern:

P: **(317) 327-4MAC (4622)**

W: **Indy.gov/RequestIndy**

App: **[RequestIndy](#)** (iPhone & Android)

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SWIMMING POOLS & HOT TUBS

Requirements • Safety Features • Permits



Department of Code Enforcement

Indianapolis

Gregory A. Ballard, Mayor

1200 Madison Ave., Suite 100 Indianapolis, IN 46225
P: (317) 327-8700 - F: (317) 327-8696 - W: Indy.gov/dce

SWIMMING POOL REQUIREMENTS

Sec. 731-219(b)(3). Additional requirements for swimming pools, hot tubs and similar structures.

The following additional requirements shall apply to swimming pools or hot tubs:

1. A swimming pool or hot tub shall not be located in or on any front yard or closer to any side lot line than the required minimum side yard setbacks of the dwelling district or located closer to any rear lot line than five feet.
2. The pool or tub area shall be enclosed by either a: safety pool cover, as defined by, and meeting the specifications of 675 IAC 20-4-27(c); or fence or other structural barrier, which shall be adequate to prevent persons, children or animals from danger or harm, and shall be equipped with a self-closing, self-latching gate. Said fence or structural barrier shall be a chain link fence, ornamental fence, solid fence, solid wall, or combination thereof. The height of said fence or structural barrier shall be no less than: five feet if fence or structural barrier is erected on grade; or, 36 inches if fence or structural barrier is erected on the raised deck or top of the pool wall of an above-ground pool or hot tub. In no instance, shall the combined height of fence or structural barrier and pool be higher than 10 feet.



3. Abandoned or unused swimming pools or hot tubs, situated on premises which are not occupied for periods of 30 days or more, shall be drained or equipped with a cover adequate to prevent persons, children or animals from danger or harm.
4. No pool or hot tub shall be erected or constructed unless adequate distance from overhead electrical wires is provided in accordance with the National Safety Code, and the National Electrical Code, current editions, and until an Improvement Location Permit has been obtained.

675 IAC 20-4-27 Safety Features.

A safety pool cover shall:

- Provide a continuous connection between the cover and the deck, so as to prohibit access to the pool when the cover is completely drawn over the pool;
- Be mechanically operated by a key or key and switch such that the cover cannot be drawn open or retracted without the use of a key;
- Be capable of supporting a 400 pound imposed load upon a completely drawn cover;
- Be installed with track, rollers, rails, guides, or other accessories necessary to accomplish subdivisions A through C with the manufacturers instructions; and
- Bear an identification tag indicating the name of the manufacturer, name of the installer, installation date and applicable safety standards, if any.



FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

- Q:** What size of an above-ground pool requires a permit?
- A:** All above-ground pools that are greater than 18 inches in depth and greater than 15 feet in width at its widest point will require an Improvement Location Permit (ILP).
- Q:** My back yard is too small for a pool. Can a pool be put in the front yard?
- A:** No. A swimming pool or hot tub shall not be located in any front yard.
- Q:** I have an old chain link fence around my back yard that is four feet in height. Will this be sufficient for the pool?
- A:** No. The minimum height that the fence must be is five feet in height. The minimum height for a fence erected on a raised deck or on top of the pool wall is 36 inches, for an above-ground pool or hot tub.
- Q:** I want to add a deck with my pool. Do I need a permit to get a permit for it?
- A:** Yes. Any deck 18 inches or greater in height requires an Improvement Location Permit (ILP).